

# WRIA 1 WATERSHED MANAGEMENT BOARD

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## WRIA 1 REQUEST FOR PROJECTS – 2026 GRANT CYCLE

### Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB)

**Letter of Intent for All Proposals and Level 2 Cost Increases (>\$75,000): February 20, 2026, 5:00pm**

**Level 1 Cost Increase (<\$75,000) Requests Due March 20, 2026, 5:00pm**

#### **Application Due Date:**

**1. April 8 PSAR Large Capital Projects/Targeted Investment,**

**2. April 24 All Other Projects/Level 2 Cost Increase Requests**

This document provides information for the WRIA 1 Lead Entity process for SRFB grant proposals. Applicants are responsible for understanding and complying with all local, regional, and state requirements for the 2026 grant round. Funding sources include the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB), Riparian funding, Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration Funds (PSAR) regular and large capital program, and the SRFB Targeted Investment (TI) program. Regional review applies to PSAR Large Capital (PSAR Program RFP) and SRFB Targeted Investment (Manual 18).

All applicants must follow the *WRIA 1 2026 Salmon Recovery Funding Board Grant Process Timeline* including submitting a Letter of Intent required for all potential projects, regardless of funding source or whether the request is for a Level 2 cost increase. Letters of Intent are not required for Level 1 cost increases, but the request is required to be submitted by March 20, 2026. Understanding and complying with the full schedule and applicable requirements is the sponsor's responsibility.

#### **Restoration Projects**

WRIA 1 restoration, acquisition, and planning proposals are submitted through the WRIA 1 Watershed Management Board as the lead entity for salmon recovery in Water Resource Inventory Area 1.

Although WRIA 1 salmon recovery planning covers multiple species, the current funding focus is on **North Fork/Middle Fork and South Fork Nooksack early Chinook recovery**. Therefore, all 2026 SRFB/PSAR proposals must demonstrate a **primary benefit to Nooksack early Chinook**. The 2026 SRFB Restoration and Protection Matrices identify level of importance of strategies for early Chinook. The technical foundation for project development is available at: [WRIA 1 Salmon Recovery Resources \(https://salmonwria1.org/resources/local-documents/\)](https://salmonwria1.org/resources/local-documents/). These include the *WRIA 1 Salmonid Recovery Plan*, and associated habitat assessments and studies.

Considerations for Potential Project Sponsors:

#### **1. Magnitude of Benefit to Chinook**

Projects demonstrating strong benefits to Nooksack early Chinook have the highest likelihood of success. The WRIA 1 Salmonid Recovery Plan and technical assessments identify priority areas, river reaches, and strategies for Chinook recovery. The 2026 SRFB Restoration and Protection Matrices are used by the Combined Review Team to assess magnitude of benefit. Sponsors proposing work outside Tier 1 or Tier 2 areas – or for areas outside of priority areas identified in the WRIA 1 Salmon Recovery Plan or Project Matrices – must provide a science-based justification using locally relevant data.

#### **2. Consistency with the WRIA 1 Salmonid Recovery Plan**

Projects should align with the Plan and its supporting assessments. Habitat objectives should link to habitat

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39 targets developed for the Salmon Recovery Plan Chapter Update. Strong projects will align with the Draft  
40 10-Year Implementation Plan strategies.

41 3. Clear Objectives and Limiting Factor Linkages

42 All proposals must include clearly defined objectives addressing limiting factors for Nooksack early Chinook  
43 and must explain how the proposed actions will meet those objectives. Local technical review will focus on  
44 this element of the project proposals.

45 4. Multiple Funding Categories

46 Sponsors applying to SRFB/PSAR and PSAR Large Capital or Targeted Investment will submit a single PRISM  
47 application but also provide a separate stand-alone document distinguishing the work elements, objectives,  
48 and budget associated with the regular SRFB/PSAR request to ensure clarity for local review.

49 5. Cost Increase Requests

50 Sponsors requesting cost increases through the SRFB grant round will follow the cost increase policy  
51 described in the WRIA 1 Salmon Recovery Funding Board Grant Application Process.

52 **Acquisition Proposals**

53 Acquisition proposals located in priority geographic areas that show commitment to restoration and include a  
54 draft or final stewardship plan will be more competitive during review.

55 **Riparian Proposals**

56 Riparian funding carried over from the 2025 grant round will be allocated in 2026. Riparian projects must meet  
57 the criteria in Manual 18 for riparian proposals. Additional considerations:

58 1. Alignment with draft WRIA1 10-Year Implementation Plan – Strategy 4 (Restore Riparian Areas) Riparian

59 Priority 1 Restore riparian zones within 300 ft of the historic migration area of the Nooksack River, forks, and  
60 estuary.

61 Priority 2 Restore within 100-foot riparian zones along WRIA 1 fish-bearing streams, adjacent to pocket  
62 estuaries, and adjacent to forage fish spawning areas.

63 2. Project Scope and Partnerships

64 Sponsors may submit proposals covering multiple geographic areas and/or involving partnerships within a  
65 single application.

66 3. Clarity of Riparian Goals

67 Riparian projects that most clearly address the goals for riparian areas will likely receive higher rankings  
68 (e.g., addressing degraded water quality, especially temperature, providing habitat

69 Riparian evaluations may also incorporate draft priorities identified from the Riparian Assessment and  
70 Prioritization tool, if available by the end of March 2026.

71 **Regional Funding Sources**

72 Applicants seeking PSAR Large Capital or SRFB Targeted Investment Program funding must comply with both the  
73 regional requirements established by Puget Sound Partnership (PSP) and/or RCO and applicable WRIA 1 process  
74 requirements, including the Letter of Intent deadline. These programs follow timelines, criteria, and review  
75 processes that differ from the regular SRFB/PSAR process, but participation in the applicable WRIA 1 steps are  
76 required.

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77 **Large Capital PSAR Projects**

78 Applicants must review and understand the requirements, timelines, and eligibility criteria outlined in the Puget  
79 Sound Partnership Request for Proposals (RFP) and the local WRIA 1 grant cycle timeline. The RFP will be  
80 available on the [Puget Sound Partnership - PSAR Program](#) site by December 30, 2025.

81 **SRFB Targeted Investment Program**

82 Applicants must meet Targeted Investment criteria in Manual 18 (January 2026 version) and should apply  
83 through the PSAR Large Capital Project process.

84 **All Projects**

85 **It is the applicant's responsibility to comply with all the requirements of the process associated with the 2026**  
86 **SRFB/PSAR grant process and for each of the program funding sources available through the grant round.**

87 Projects will be evaluated based on the applications in PRISM by the date(s) shown in the 2026 WRIA 1 Grant  
88 Round schedule and responses to comments from local and state reviewers during the review process.

89 **Letters of Intent to submit a proposal are due in electronic format by 5:00 pm February 20, 2026. Submit to**  
90 **WRIA 1 Watershed Management Board c/o Becky Peterson, [genevaconsulting@comcast.net](mailto:genevaconsulting@comcast.net).**